WRITTEN QUESTION E-1860/00
by Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm (ELDR) to the Council
(13 June 2000)

Subject: Road between Cabanes and Oropesa (Castellón province)

In the Spanish province of Castellón, the Necso-Rover Alcisa company has been awarded the contract to build a road between Cabanes and Oropesa.

The project has not been subject to an environmental impact assessment for the Natural Park of the Desierto de las Palmas and its surroundings, which are home to many unique local species, both in the cave of 'lullal de miravet' and the area's other caves; this fauna is extremely habitat-sensitive, which means that any alteration to that habitat could lead to the extinction of the species concerned.

The southern stretch of the proposed road would likewise affect equally or even more important areas of equal or greater natural beauty and environmental importance than the Desierto de las Palmas natural park.

Since no environmental impact assessments have been carried out for any of the preliminary proposals for the sections of the road (north, intermediate and south), what measures will the Council take to ensure that environmental legislation is complied with?

Reply
(23 October 2000)

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not fall within the competence of the Council. It is up to the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, to ensure in accordance with Article 226 of the Treaty that the relevant Community legislation is correctly transposed into national law and properly enforced.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1866/00
by Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NGL) to the Commission
(9 June 2000)

Subject: The Garraf (Barcelona) Tip

The Garraf Tip, located in the Gavà i Begues (Barcelona) municipality, opened in 1972, and is used for mass urban waste dumping. It currently holds over 20 million tonnes of rubbish.

This tip is built on porous limestone, and when it was built, no measures were taken to make it impermeable, with the result that it has been leaching into the underground water supply for 28 years and causing pollution as far as the sea and the bed of the Llobregat Delta, which has been declared an area of special natural interest. The tip lies within a natural park established by a decree of the Generalitat de Catalunya of 18 February 1987 on the Plan Especial de Protección del Medio Físico y del Paisaje del Espacio de Interés Natural del Garraf (special plan for the protection of the physical environment and natural beauty of the Garraf area of natural interest). Article 28 of the legislation in force until last year laid down that the dumping of organic material would cease on 31 December 1999.

On 6 April 2000, the biannual revision of the Metropolitan Municipal Waste Management Programme was adopted, providing for the use of the Garraf Tip until 31 December 2006.

Both the biannual revision and the amendment of the special plan for the protection of the Garraf area ignore Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the dumping of waste, which is to be transposed into national legislation by 31 July 2001 (Article 18). Under this directive, the Garraf Tip will not meet the conditions for remaining open, and should be closed (paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Annex I).

Furthermore, the Garraf Tip is an ‘illegal’ installation, given that it is an industrial-type plant built on land classified as ‘woodland’ by the General Metropolitan Plan currently in force. Moreover, it has no municipal operating licence from the Gavà Town Council.